DOCUMENT RESUME

ED 380 728 CG 026 133

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TITLE	Skills for Living: Group Counseling Activities for Elementary Students.
REPORT NO	ISBN-0-87822-347-9
PUB DATE	94
NOTE	229p.
AVAILABLE FROM	Research Press, 2612 N. Mattis Ave., Champaign IL 61821 ($24.95).
PUB TYPE	Guides - Classroom Use - Teaching Guides (For Teacher) (052) -- Tests/Evaluation Instruments (160)
EDRS PRICE	Document Not Available from EDRS.
DESCRIPTORS	Children; Coping; *Daily Living Skills; Elementary Education; *Elementary School Students; *Group Counseling; *Group Therapy; *Interpersonal Competence; Interpersonal Relationship; Self Esteem; *Social Integration; Student Needs

ABSTRACT

This book can help counselors in the school or mental health setting create meaningful group experiences for children who, for whatever reason, are behind in social and life skill development. The group agendas have been developed with children from grades 2-5 in mind. Although each topic stands alone, children can benefit from more than one topical group experience. The sessions are presented sequentially within each agenda so that basic information and skills are presented before exposure to more advanced ideas. Children need not have had previous counseling experience to benefit. In small groups, children master important affective and behavioral competencies associated with eight topic areas: (1) Peace Begins With Me: Peacemaking Skills; (2) I'm Somebody Special: Building Self-Esteem; (3) Friends: Getting Along With Others; (4) KIDS: Kids in Divorce Stress; (5) Grieving and Growing: Learning From Losses; (6) I CAN Kids: Control Anger Now! (7) I'm Responsible; and (8) Good Citizen's Club. These topics represent personal and social issues that frequently become problematic for elementary-age children, as identified by school and mental health counselors. Three appendices supply sample forms needed for group counseling, ethical guidelines for group counselors, and pretests and posttests. Samples of handouts are also provided. (RJM)

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